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SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN

NOVEMBER 28, 1976

This newsletter is published monthly for the benefit of the Six Meter Interest Club; WR9ABM (31/91); WR9ABS (25/85); WR9ADU (07/67); and The Ozaukee Radio Club. Permission is granted for reprinting any of the articles appearing in this newsletter provided credit is given same. All material for future issues must be in the hands of the Editor by the tenth.

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All club reporters must submit read to print copy, neat, typed and in the newsletter format.

JUST MOUTHING OFF

Thanks to the efforts of many individuals our newsletter is expanding in clarity, scope and readability (literally). Our name has been shortened and an appropriate Mass Head courtesy W9AMM has been adopted.

Don W9AMM will handle the duties of Assistant Editor as well as Want Ad and printing coordinator. Joel K9TBD will mastermind the technical articles and Pete WB9UES will give us the low down on our members in the form of biographies.

Our staff is growing and will hopefully reflect in our future publications. We still have need for additional help. If you have the time and desire to give, we have a place for you. Let me know.

I would like to welcome aboard the 74 members of the Ozaukee Radio Club. I attended their November 10 meeting, presented what our newsletter had to offer them, fielded their questions, enjoyed coffee and donuts, and gassed with many of the members. I will be looking forward to some of their interesting articles on low band activities. I see that that strange phenomenon reported last month is still with us causing the club meetings to start late. Maybe there is a pill available to curb this gremlin. I would like at this time to express my sincere appreciation to Marsh Baker WB9FZU, who for the first five issues, printed our newsletter, many times on very short notice. Thanks Marsh from all of us.

Larry WA9JMO

THE MILWAUKEE COUNTY REPEATER SOCIETY

146.25

WR9ABS

146.85

Our last meeting was held at the Journal Studios on Capitol Drive, Milwaukee. A tour of the TV and radio stations was conducted by Rees Roberts, K9UUT, and his assistants. Those not attending missed a good informative session. A job well done, Rees.

Well gang, guess what? Our autopatch is still down. We had to get new crystals for the 450 link, but unfortunately, Motorola goofed again and sent the wrong ones. So we are patiently waiting for the next order to arrive. Otherwise the repeater is working fine.

There will be no meeting in December. January's meeting will be highlighted with nominations for club officers and February's meeting will be held at Schultz's Brown bottle. Details will be in December's Hamateur.

Jim Wierzba, WB9OJE

31/91

MILWAUKEE REPEATER CLUB NEWSLETTER

31/91

NOVEMBER, 1976

MEMBERSHIP HITS 200 MARK There are now 200 members of the Milwaukee Repeater Club. This is the highest of any repeater group in the state and the highest ever for MRC. The increase over last year has been largely due to the Membership Committee's efforts in soliciting users of WR9ABM to contribute to the operating expenses of the system.

1977 MEMBERSHIP A reminder that 1977 dues (\$10) are due January 1. Reminders will be mailed in January. If you do not receive the reminder, you may mail your dues to P.O. Box 2123, Milwaukee, 53201 by the end of January. Please wait for the reminder. The February Newsletter will be the last issue for those that don't join for 1977.

ROSTER The 1976 annual roster is being laid out and will be ready to mail shortly after you receive this newsletter.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT The tone frequency of the HAL identifier shifted out of everyone's passband recently. A trip to the site, dismantling and resetting the proper trimmer allowed users to once again hone their CW skills. The Murphy amplifier has perfected fuse blowing to a fine art. The main line fuse has been blowing - but with a 48 hour delay. Don't worry, we'll fix it, but we may need a four wheel drive Jeep to get in when the snow flies and the road to the repeater building is drifted over.

NOVEMBER MEETING Club officers were nominated at the meeting for 1977 duties. The January annual meeting will be used for election of officers. An appeal was made for help in doing a feasibility study of an emergency autopatch system, but no volunteers responded. President Kaja presented a special award to WB9NME which Doug promised to frame around his microphone.

THOSE 'I WISH I HAD A DIME FOR EVERY CALL IDENTIFICATION' BLUES Yes, Gang...since nobody heeded Auntie Idee's advice last month it's time to remind you again....only identify at the beginning and end of the QSO and every ten (10) minutes, NOT at every exchange. The repeater ID occurs at three minute intervals. That means the repeater should identify three times and then you should ID. Save your air time for more interesting topics than your call sign.

Al, WA9RYO

6 METER INTEREST CLUB

This month Sheldon, WB9SJQ, the Net Control Station for our club gets "up on the soapbox" and airs a few complaints and problems. Any comments - pro or con - will be printed in next month's issue. Just give me a call or drop me a line or two in the mail.

Both the SSB and AM Nets need your support and PARTICIPATION. Do you think that they are dull? Need changes or improvements? If so, SOUND OFF. Let the activities chairman know what you expect from the Nets. Let us know how we can improve our operations.

ONE OF OUR MEMBERS Ernie, K9QIL, became interested in radio when he was ten years old. Using Quaker Oats boxes for coils and crystal detectors (with cats-whiskers). Later on tubes became available and he used A and B batteries to power them. (Your reporter sure would like to see some of that equipment-Hi.) Ernie has been a licensed ham since 1958, operating on 6 and 2 meters. He also has an additional station license W9GMQ, which he was issued while traveling a lot with the railroad. Ernie is a retired gentleman of leisure, and is active daily on the VHF Bands.

NOTE: The above information was furnished by Ernie. I am sure that there is a lot more to his story. Your reporter plans to have a talk with him and present a more in-depth report.

CODE PRACTICE Several stations, namely WB9IRN, WB9RSK, WB9TCW, and WA9UXL have been sitting in on the code practice sessions being conducted on 50.31 Mhz nightly at 7:00 PM local time. Code speed is now at 13 WPM (approximately). It makes your reporter perspire a lot, but he is determined. Hi, Hi! Thanks to code transmitting stations WA9DOT, WB9JWT and WB9SJQ.

CHRISTMAS DINNER AND DANCE Don't forget to get your reservations for this event in to Jim, WB9RSK, as soon as possible. Jim's address and other information are listed on your advance registration form. IF YOU DID NOT GET AN ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM, GET ON THE NET OF YOUR CHOICE AND HOLLER LOUDLY! We'll see that you get your form right away. That's all for this month - more and better next month. Have a good and happy Thanksgiving Holiday and see you on 6 meters.

Art, WA9UXL

Severe winter storms have been predicted as good possibility for our area this season. In the event of severe weather, all stations should monitor the AREC frequency (146.07/67) for information and assistance. The National Weather Service tone-alert weather bulletins on KEC60 (162.4 Mhz) are also simultaneously transmitted on the 146.07/.67 repeater. The AREC will also issue weather advisories on all other Milwaukee and Waukesha repeaters.

In a weather emergency, the AREC will issue a Severe Weather Alert and activate a directed net on 146.07/.67 using the on-air procedures as indicated in the "Milwaukee Severe Weather Plan" booklet. (If you do not have a free copy, pick one up at the next AREC meeting or send a self-addressed stamped #10 envelope to WB9NNJ, Bob Fairman; EC, Milw. Co. AREC; 2515 W. Michael Dr.; Milw., Wisc. 53209.)

Next monthly AREC meeting (held the first Tuesday of every month) is December 7 at the Red Cross Building, 26th and Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, 7:30 PM sharp. Weekly nets meet at 9:00 PM sharp every Monday night on 146.07/.67.

WB9NNJ

... 50MHz... THE SIX METER NETS ... 50MHz...

The six meter nets in the Milwaukee area are suffering from a well known malady known as lack of interest. Everyone complains about six meters being a dead band. They want nets and other activities, but just sit back and let the other guys do it. It's about time some of these stations get off their backsides and join the group that is trying to keep six alive and kicking.

There is an AM net on every day at 6:00 PM local time on 50.310, with any mode accepted for check-in. There is also CW practice on this frequency on week nights at 7:00 PM at 13 WPM and anyone who would like to join in is welcome to do so. There is a comment session afterwards and the text is read back on AM.

There is a SSB net on every Thursday evening at 8:00 PM local time on 50.125. This is the 6-MIC or Six Meter Interest Club Net, and again any mode may be used to check in.

It is very frustrating for an NCS to devote his time every night and have only one or two stations check in. At best, it is the same faithful stations that check in every night and a few who check in when the mood suits them. If the NCS can devote his time every night and try to keep things going, let's get in there and give him some support and make him feel that it is somewhat appreciated.

Another area for coverage on these nets are the practices used by some stations that are very annoying to everyone, and they are:

(1) Stations checking in as portable while sitting in front of their TV sets, so they can get in first and/or so they don't have to give up their comfort or other activities. A station is portable only when operating AWAY from its HOME base.

(2) Stations checking in out of turn - stations called for from the South and having someone check in from the North or West. If you miss checking in when your area is called, wait until there is a call for stations from any direction.

(3) Stations that check in and then disappear without being excused. When you check in, stay until you are excused or the net is over. There may be traffic directed toward you and you waste net time by having the NCS look for you.

(4) Stations that check in with long time-consuming calls and comments. Keep the check-in short with calls only - save the comments for later. There may be a station with important traffic waiting to check in.

(5) Stations that check in and just start yakking without being acknowledged or just break in and talk whenever they feel like it. Talk about aggravation and wasted time!

(6) Stations that check in and request immediate QNX, just to give the NCS a check-in. All this does is waste time. If you are not going to stay around, why bother?

(7) If at all possible, get on the NCS frequency. He is where the net is at. It is very difficult for the net control station to tune as much as 10 KHz for a station and then get back on the same frequency himself.

These are some of the things that make for a bad net. Let's make an effort to follow some semblance of order and we will have a much smoother net and a more enjoyable one for all. Besides, it is just good plain operating practice and common sense.

De WB9SJQ, NCS
for the Milwaukee Area Nets on 6 M

QSO PARTY

There is a QSO party scheduled for 6 meters on December 19, 1976 - 12:00 noon to 12:00 midnight. The Six Meter Interest Club of Milwaukee will host this event. Points will be given for power rating and mode of operation: one point per contact; bonus points for CW; three points for QRP stations 50 watts or less, and five points for working the club station, WB9WWP. Station can be worked only once. Submit your logs showing calls, times, power, mode and RST to: WB9RSK, Jim Herriges; 542 E. Van Beck Ave; Milw., Wisc. 53207. The man Net is moving to a new time slot as of 12/1/76 -- 9:00 PM, frequency 50.310 will remain the same. A problem solving session will be held after the first go-around. The 6 MIC annual action will be held in March - watch for details in a later issue of The Hamateur. The new 6 MIC certificates are going to the printer and should be ready soon.

Sheldon, WB9SJQ

WR9AIY

LAKESHORE REPEATER ASSOCIATION

A little over a year ago a number of amateurs: WB9HGT, Don; WA9YTH, Corky; K9MLD, Joel; W9PHJ, Herb; and WA9HOH, Dick, got together to discuss getting the cities of Racine and Kenosha to promote a repeater. Meetings were held by groups in both cities to inform local amateurs about the joint effort. Last December a meeting was held at Gateway in Racine to form a Club. A charter membership at a cost of \$20 was available to promote instant cash for the purchase of a repeater. K9MLD requested a frequency from the "WAR" console. By February the treasury was up to \$1400, and we had sent for our license. After returning our application several times for modification, the FCC finally issued our license October 22, 1976. We now have a tower and antenna up and with the aid of a vox circuit, our two VHF transceivers - "IC22S" Receiver and an "EBC" Jr Transmitter - are operational.

Statistics: Elevation 750 feet; Antenna 50 feet, 3DB; Location Hwy 31 and the Racine-Kenosha County Line Road; Power 25 Watts with Vox operation; Frequency 147.87 in and 147.27 out; Duplexer Sinclair 4 cavity.

We are negotiating for a site on the 250-foot tower 800 feet above sea level. The repeater is designed for local coverage. Thanks to our members and WA9YTH with his equipment, WR9AIY is operational. Manual IDing is necessary until the repeater arrives.

VP Joel Eschmann, K9MLD/WB9RNR

MEETING

The Lakeshore Repeater Association (87/27) announced that a meeting has been scheduled for December 7 at the Red Cross Building on Taylor Ave (½ block east of Ohio Street) in Racine. Starting at 7:30 PM the meeting will include the election of new officers.

MILWAUKEE EXPRESSWAY TURMOIL TURNS INTO CONCRETE RIBBONS OF FRIENDSHIP

Here we go again - flat tire, no spare, stuck on expressway, rear end collision, need help. Someone around?

Sound familiar, it should. It's WB9FXR requiring assistance and boy did he get it. Calls came from all over. Sure is nice and comforting to know someone is willing to come to your aid. So he's saying thanks to his many monitoring friends and extending a friendly hand to show his appreciation and to those who have doubts about 2 meters and to its usefulness just listen for those SOS's. Then sit back and watch it work.

Last April after calling for aid to have a garage service his first flat tire, Bob was tooling along I-894 south when another tire lost its air. Bob without a spare turned again to 2 FM with his SOS. Five Hams responded: WA9JMO, WB9KYR, WA9RWO, WB9SAM and WA9RNS. There we were, parked in a convoy on the side of Hwy I-894. WA9JMO brought along two mounted tires. WB9KYR, WB9SAM and WA9RWO jacked up Bob's truck and changed his flat while WA9RNS served coffee to all. Several months later, Bob again found himself in need of the services of 2 meters as he was sandwiched in a five-car fender bender on the Milwaukee Expressway System. W9VKC and WB9ODO came to his assistance and phoned the proper authorities.

Expressway Cowboy, Bob, WB9FXR

EXCUSES.....EXCUSES.....EXCUSES

You've all heard it before...."Hey Bud, are you coming to the meeting next Thursday?"

"Nahhhh, I got sometin goin dat nite." We take his word. After all, there may be a very good reason for not making the meeting. But we have all heard the other excuses too. These are some of the "gems" I've heard:

"I thought the meeting was last week" (where was he then?)

"My wife had a baby last week and you know how it is" (I know this guy wasn't married)

"I broke my glasses yesterday and can't drive"

"I don't even know the code anymore"

"The wife wouldn't let me go" (He was married)

"I have to work second shift next week" (This guy was a milkman!)

Maybe these excuses are valid, maybe not. But I'm proud to say in my twenty years as a Ham and a club member the only meeting I missed was because I had a headache....honest....ask my wife....I was dying....darn back....my doctor will verify it....ask him....blah....blah....blah....

Signed ANON

TWO METER MOON BOUNCE

After trying for seven unsuccessful years to get across the Rocky Mountains, I thought I would try moon bounce. I picked up four new states in 16 days for a total of 45 now. Faraday rotation of the signal is the major problem. You can hear signals for a full 15 minutes or don't hear anything for an hour.

Eastern stations take the first two minutes. The western stations transmit the second two minutes. When you hear a few letters or numbers you send both calls for one and one half minutes and send the letter "T" for 30 seconds. When you receive the major parts of the call, you send the letter "M". When you hear the full call, you send the letter "O". When you receive "O", you dispense with the calls and send "R-O" the full two minutes. When you receive "R-O" you send "R's" only. When you hear "R's" you send SK or 73. This completes the contact.

The minimum requirements are four antennas with at least 20DB gain. Know your frequency within one KC. A preamp with not more than 2 DB noise figure, and at least 500 watts output on cw is needed. CW is sent at 5 to 7 WPM; very low loss line and type "N" fittings are preferred, unless the rig is near the antenna. Antennas should be able to rotate in azimuth and elevation or a fixed array at a certain spot in the sky that can only be used 4 or 5 days out of a month. Computer charts are available for each hour of the day for a full year or two. Full details on EME are available from Eimac in California. It's free.

Jim, WA9DOT

MIDNIGHT MADNESS ON WR9ABM - REVISITED

I am pleased to report that all is well on .31/.91 after midnight. The crowd I reported on last time is still at it. There are a few changes though.

Larry (WA9RWO) and Carl (K9DCK) have transferred to the day shift so computations and skiing have been reduced to infrequent occurrences.

Bob (K9OSC) has left us for bigger and better things in Virginia Beach, Virginia. If we hear from Bob, it will be because of a return visit by him or fantastic skip conditions. Otherwise Dick (WA9LZM), Steve (W9NRS), Dan (WB9DCX), Dick (W9ZNB), Joel (K9MLD) and Larry (WA9JMO) are still at their usual things as reported last time. And I might add, with no improvement.

There are a few new faces seen on the frequency which helps keep things interesting. Randy (WB9WKJ) has been having a good deal of trouble getting up for work in the morning. Since Randy's joining the group, his boss has been thinking of ways to have his license revoked so he is worth something at work during the day.

Then of course there is Pete (WB9UES), who spends his time hiding behind billboards along I-94 in Racine County with his motorcycle. Lately, Pete has been finding it difficult to find a good billboard to hide behind, thus his location is usually well known to hams traveling this stretch of highway.

Speaking of hiding, Norm (WB9PCQ) has been hiding in the weeds of .31/.91 many a night with his HF gear alongside his 2 meter rig. I have the feeling that he gets a little mixed up at this hour, especially when he tries to answer the 80 meter NCS on WR9ABM.

As you can see, there is always something interesting going on, on the repeater after midnight. Why don't you give us a shout and join the Midnight Madness on WR9ABM.

Tom, WA9RNS

(Editor's Note: Tom has recently taken a position in Chicago and can no longer be found doing his thing after midnight on 31/91. Our loss is Chicago's gain; he will be missed by many. Best of luck in your new endeavor Tom.)

CLARENCE (CORKY) CORKIN

WA9YTH

Buoyant and bearded, the subject of our first biographical sketch sits monarch over a realm of tubes, transistors and knobs that would strike a note of fear and longing in the heart of novice and extra alike. Clarence (Corky) Corkin rules his roost on a gentle country setting alongside Highway 31 just a stones throw south of the Racine-Kenosha County Line.

Corky, a life time resident of the Kenosha area and a veteran of the U.S. Navy, served tours in Japan and Korea from 1949 to 1952. He first obtained his amateur novice license in 1966 and quickly progressed to the advanced ticket that he holds today. His home is his Ham shack and his castle, where he co-rules with his lovely wife Janice, who will soon be presenting him with a new novice.

Corky is employed at J.I. Case Company in Racine where he serves in the research and test facility. When not at the office, he is usually found at home where, with the assistance of his son Mike, runs his part time job - making portable power supplies which he sells under the name of Porta Pak, Inc. He also runs a small photography lab and studio in the basement, which he uses to make up his advertisement layouts. All this keeps him pretty busy, but his son Mike, WB9CTN, tells me that he still has a little time to play horse shoes now and again but usually forgets to remove them from the horse. His busy schedule always leaves just enough time to complete his duties as president and head technician of the newly installed WR9AIY, property of the Lakeshore Repeater Association. This carrier access repeater operates on 147.87 input and serves the Kenosha-Racine area from its vantage point in Corky's backyard.

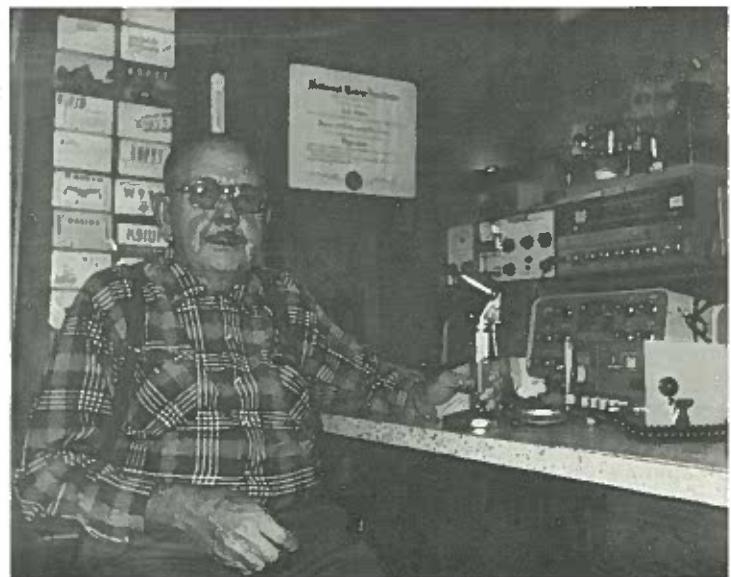
I was treated courteously when I arrived for the interview, even though I appeared at the back door in somewhat distinctive garb (I was working, you see), and I was greeted by Corky, his wife Janice, his son Mike, and two dogs, Lady and Chopper, a little puppy who has a whole lot of Black Lab in him. I was given the grand tour of the homestead and took a few pictures of the ham shack.

Upstairs is where the main ham shack is, one room packed full of all the little goodies that keep the Electric Company in business and keep Corky on the air. On the high frequencies, Corky runs a Swan 500CX with separate VFO, and a Hamerlund HXL-1 linear amplifier. He uses this rig on 75 meters, 40 meters and 10 meters with coaxial dipoles on 75 and 40, and a 5/8 wave vertical on ten, mounted at 108 feet above the earth. He runs a lot of ssb, a little cw, and a little RTTY every now and then. Corky also operates 29.6 Mhz FM, from the ham shack, from the mobile, and he has a transmitter receiver in the basement workshop running 24 hours a day and tuned to 29.6 FM. Back up in the ham shack he runs an ICOM rig on 450 Mhz and Motorola equipment with a GLB synthesizer on two meters, with a salting of spare two meter receivers on numerous frequencies, plus, of course, that generous supply of associated parts that are common to every serious ham shack. In the mobile, Corky runs a standard two meter rig, along with his 29.6 FM rig, but rarely gets too far from the home QTH.

You'll hear him on the air if you're on 29.6 FM or if you tune into the Lakeshore Repeater every now and then. If he's not there, look on 450 or 94 simplex where his 22 elements at 80 feet put out that really big signal. WR9AIY, you're in good hands.

WB9UES

CORKY-WA9YTH



ERNIE, K9QIL...
(See story on page 2.)

For Sale Swap

CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED TRADE

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, NON-COMMERCIAL ADS WILL BE ACCEPTED AND PUBLISHED FREE FOR ALL NEWSLETTER READERS. CLOSING DATE FOR ADS IS THE 10TH OF THE PUBLICATION MONTH. DIRECT AD COPY AND RELATED CORRESPONDENCE TO: DON HABECK, W9AMM, 5973 SUGARBUSH LANE, GREENDALE, 53129.

FOR SALE: Multi-Elmac Model AF-68 AM-CW, 80 thru 6, VFO, complete with M1070 pwr supply (6, 12, 117 volt input); \$60.00 or make an offer.
Contact Don, K9SHJ, 5969 Sugarbush Lane, Greendale, 53129 421-4241

FOR SALE: Drake R4B receiver & T4XB transmitter with power supply, rack adapters and extra final tubes; \$650.00.
Contact Tom Rehm, K9PIQ, 1401 Hickory Way, Racine (414) 634-6955

FOR SALE: Hammarlund FM-50A 2 mtr rig w/crystals for 146.94 Simplex and pwr cord; \$65.00.
Contact Ken, K9BKJ, 6912 W. Layton Ave. Greenfield, 53220 282-1244 (5-6 PM)

FOR SALE: Swan 240 w/Swan AC pwr supply; \$175.00. Central Electronics 20A w/VFO; \$50.00. Clegg FM-27B 2 mtr rig; \$270.00. Pair of 4-400A tubes: \$10.00.
Contact Stu, W9HI, 2011 Lynn Lane, Rte 6, Burlington, 53105 (414) 539-2680

FOR SALE: Heathkit DX-60B w/HG-10B VFO, 80-10 mtrs, AM-CW; \$100.00.
Contact Greg, WB9PPR 771-1084

FOR SALE: VHF Eng. HT-144 w/94/94, 31/91, 43/03, 87/27, nicads and charger, modified to correct original design; \$115.00. NCX-3 and NCX-3A AC pwr supply...original owner and "low mileage"; \$175.00. Contact Joel Eschmann, K9MLD, Rte 2, Box 177, Lot 73C, Union Grove, 53182 744-6786 (Days-Milw) 878-2774 (nites-Union Grove)

FOR SALE: Six RCA Carfone 2 mtr mobiles w/o accessories; \$25.00 ea. Henry Tempo 2 mtr amplifier Model C130A10; \$125.00. Blower motor; \$15.00. Contact Paul, W9KHO, who is handling the equipment for the 25/85 Club.

WANTED: Electronic keyer and Ten-Tec Argonaut Xcver. Contact Paul Hellenberg, WB9YDS, 3326 S. Green Bay Rd., Racine 53403. (414) 554-9170 after 5:30 PM

WANTED: Schematics for Regency HR-2A and AR-2 amplifier. Contact Ken, K9BKJ, 6912 W. Layton Ave., Greenfield, 53220 282-1244 (5-6PM)

WANTED: Information for converting the Heathkit HW Series monoband equipment for tri-band operation. Contact Dave, WB9OWN, 2767A S. Ellen St. Milwaukee, 53207 483-3302

SWAP: Heath HW-32 20 mtr SSB Xcvr w/HP-23 pwr supply and crystal calibrator for 2 mtr solid state mobile, HT, or ??...need not be working but should be repairable. Contact Don, W9AMM, 5973 Sugarbush Lane, Greendale, 53129 421-1245

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TECHNICAL
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LOW COST TWO METER DIRECTION FINDING ANTENNA

From the Rochester Minnesota Amateur Radio Club comes the following specification that Norm, WB9PCQ says is accurate within three degrees.

Start with a 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch piece of RG-8/U coax cable and connect one end to a PL-259 connector (designated side "A"). Clip the center conductor on the other end and solder only the shield of the other end to a standard PL-259 coax connector (designated side "B"). Insert both ends into opposite ends of a standard "T" coax connector (M-358) with the remaining end of the "T" connector connected to a short piece of coax cable (a PL-259 connector on each end) and plug into your receiver. One further step is required! Completely cut and remove a small section of copper shield (leaving the center conductor intact) at a distance of about 16 to 17 inches from side "A". Apply tape around the removed shield section as well as around the PL-259 male connectors for safety and better support.

If you try it, let me know your results as well as how you used and mounted it.

73's Larry McCalvy WA9JMO

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EDITOR: Larry McCally WA9JMO
THE HAMATEUR

TRANSMIT CRYSTALS FOR YOUR 2 METER BOAT ANCHOR

So you got a real bargin - that old tube type police or taxi radio set. OK, let's fire it up - oop's no crystals.

You've checked AES: "Motorola?" - "Naw" You've rummaged through all the hamfests - found only one set at Grey's Lake and 8-zillion people had Motorola junk. (\$5/pair). Checked a few mfr's catalogs - \$9 for a transmit; receive not even listed. Checked into synthesizers - twice the price you paid for the radio.

Here's a solution, at least for the transmit crystals. Due to a suggestion by Nel's (WA9JOB) "a crystal is a crystal", I purchased a test crystal (Regency) for \$5 plus tax. Same thing (X24) i.e. in the 6mHz range.

Now comes the problem of putting this little bitty new crystal into your giant crystal socket. Hmm - after a little thought - you check - sure 'nuf, those old novice crystals have the same pin configuration. All you have to do is (1) take old crystal out including contact plates (careful not to lose the spring), (2) clip the pins of the new crystal and solder wires to the crystal holder pins, (3) reassemble - placing the new crystal sideways, the bakelite wafer, the spring, rubber gasket, then the lid, (4) plug it in and it goes f.b.

My first try was with (16) transmit. Had (76) receive. Lee (WA9TPD) reprogrammed his scanner and heard me f.b. in West Allis - Dorothy (K9BBL) swung her pair (stacked 11's) toward Shorewood from Hartford and I put up my h.b. 5 element Yagi (4' off the ground) and we worked split (16/76) (76/16) with full quieting. In modern vernacular she claimed my signal was "rite ON" i.e. f.b. QRG. Another suggestion is to get the standard crystal can, unsolder it, replace the innerds with the new crystal and reseal.

73's Joel Elston, K9TBD

